HELICOPTER FACTS

Contact: Tony Molinaro tony.molinaro@faa.gov or (847) 294-7427

5 Ways to Manage an Inflight Helicopter Crisis

Decision aids are easy-to-remember lists intended to support the decision maker and to avoid errors. They are particularly beneficial in the case of critical and stressful situations and they can help manage a crisis by prioritizing the tasks. This is the "FADEC" aid.

Fly the helicopter - Be aware of aircraft limitations and if the conditions permit, use all available aircraft automation systems such as auto-pilot, etc.

Assess the situation - More time spent assessing the situation can lead to a better outcome. Try to avoid snap decisions unless the time available is very short.

Decide on a workable option - Refer to your emergency or abnormal checklist and follow an option where the hardware (machine), software (procedures), and liveware (you the human) can function best.

Evaluate - Continue assessing the situation and action as the situation evolves.

Communicate – Talk with air traffic control and other personnel as appropriate for collaborative decisions and review.